

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ST. CLAIR SHORES HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**MacHarg Room
Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chairperson	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs. Kathleen Campbell
Members	Ms. Kathryn Gargalino
	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando
Council Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie

EXCUSED:

Assistant Library Director	Ms. Stephanie Fair
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 7:00 PM.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Horan, supported by VanDeGraaf, to adopt the agenda.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Campbell, supported by Horan, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Museum Activities

The Museum continues to be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays with the help of library staff and docents.

The new curator has been hired and should begin by the end of June.

The Yardeners are working on the grounds.

Eagle Scout, Luke Anderson has completed the repair of the garden fence.

Rusie announced that the funds for repairs on the farmhouse will be approved by the City Council. Orlando will request that the monies allocated for the 2022 budget for additional repairs on the farmhouse, will be carried over to the 2022-23 budget. The process of bids and obtaining contractors will began.

B. Historical Society Report

There is still some difficulty filing Form 990-N for 2022 online. There is still plenty of time before the deadline. The Historical Society bank account balances are as follows:
\$25,220.19 in the Investment account
\$8,004.49 in the 2nd investment account
\$15,896.06 in the checking account (which includes the Reeder donation).

C. Genealogy Group Report

No report. The Genealogy group has not held any recent meetings. The Local History Center will remain closed to the public until library renovations have been completed

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Rusie commented that the budget funds approved by the City Council should cover all of the major repairs needed on the Selensky-Green Farmhouse Museum.

Rusie also disclosed that the group attempting to “Save the Water Tower” on Masonic at the golf course, has received a six month stay from the approved demolition in hopes that they can raise funds to refurbish the tower. The request for bids to demolish the tower in January of 2023 received no bidders. The estimated cost for repair in 2022 was over \$400,000 and current demolition costs been estimated at more than \$600,000. The City Council will need to make a motion to reconsider, if the group wants to continue efforts to rescue the tower.

Rusie suggested that a City Historical Marker be placed at the golf course.

Horan wished everyone a Happy Father’s Day.

Gargalino posted pictures of the Chapotan home dedication on Facebook and had a few inquiries regarding the residential/commercial marker program. She will post a link to the SCSPL website from where the marker application can be downloaded.

Campbell shared a booklet she put together for Maurice VanCoillie with the copy and pictures from his oral history interview. Two copies will be donated; one for the Local History Center and one for the Historical Commission’s archives.

E. Librarians Report

Information for the next library newsletter should be submitted by June 9.

Lake Shore High School recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Orlando suggested that the Historical Commission send congratulatory letters/certificates for occasions such as these.

The SCSPL is working on the grant application for the renovations. The target date for completion of the renovations is December 2024.

The SCSPL switched to summer hours of operation after Memorial Day.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

The dedication for the Flanagan family at 22623 Chapoton was a great success.

There are three new applications in various stages of the process: 30129 Jefferson (McGhie), 22611 Colony Street (Subotich) and 22431 Englehardt (Magee-Swetlic). Cilluffo will keep us posted on the progress and ask how they learned of the program.

City Historical Marker Update:

The Trinity Episcopal Church dedication has been scheduled for Sunday, June 11th at 10:30 a.m. Rusie will notify C&G News about the dedication.

Shores Magazine has requested a copy of the Trinity marker for their publication. It was agreed that Campbell could send the requested copy.

Campbell had an appointment to meet Chef Bobby regarding historic photos for Blossom Heath. The Chef's assistant attended in his place. They have a number of questions regarding the types of photos and their placement that need to be clarified by the City.

The Marker for the pier at Blossom Heath is still on hold until a new photo has been taken.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Kenneth Schram has contacted the Historical Commission once again regarding the Pewabic tiles commemorating the Interurban that were produced many years ago. A discussion followed and it was decided to reply again that more tiles would not be produced.

The July regular meeting of the St Clair Shores Historical Commission has been cancelled since it falls on July 4th.

VII. AUDIENCE

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Horan, supported by Cilluffo to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 P.M.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

The next regular meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the SCSPL in the MacHarg Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Campbell,
Secretary/Treasurer